

CUP Updates Irrigation Companies on Studies

The engineers conducting the water studies that will be funded by the Central Utah Project completion bill, now pending in Congress, outlined the scope of their work and emphasized the importance of input from water users during a meeting Oct. 9 with Wasatch County irrigation companies.

The bill authorizes funds for the studies, and allows 18 months from the time it is signed into law for them to be completed. It also transfers responsibility for completing the CUP from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation to the Central Utah Water Conservancy District.

Anticipating that the bill will pass, the District already has hired the consultants and advanced enough money to begin the studies,

rather than waiting for the CUP funds to become available.

Kirt Carpenter, district assistant project director and former project manager for the Bureau's Salt Lake City office, said the future of the bill looks "very positive." He said it should be "in the hopper" by the first of November.

He explained the Wasatch County water efficiency study, particularly regarding irrigation use, is the study team's present focus and is the district's highest priority of the seven special studies included in the legislation.

He told the water users, "This is your study. We have no preset agenda; no pre-determined engineering. What you want in the study is what we're looking for. We're looking for your ideas and we want

you to participate...We can only do as good a job as the information you provide."

The study team leader, Paul Sommers, Montgomery Engineering, described the others as follows:

- Upper Strawberry stream restoration, which includes keeping Daniels water in the system, a very high priority for environmentalists, and making up the loss to irrigators with Jordanelle water.

- Utah Lake salinity control.

- Strawberry-Provo conveyance, to bring Strawberry water into the Provo River, possibly across Wallsburg, for supplementary stream flows.

- Creating a minimum stream flow of 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) below the Olmstead Diversion

Continued on Page 3A

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Continued from Page 1A
for the Provo River fishery.

- Deer Creek Water quality.

Wasatch County has applied for 12,100 acre-feet of storage in the Jordanelle Reservoir. Sommers said that would be for supplemental use, primarily late in the growing season. But he said not all the allocation will be needed if water efficiency is increased throughout the Heber Valley, and the excess can make up for the lost Daniels water.

"We have no intention of doing anything in a vacuum," Sommers assured the water users. "We have strong direction from the district that public involvement is a major component of our work."

He said the study team will be meeting regularly with water users, including some one-on-one consultations with water users.

A valleywide sprinkling system has been proposed as the most effective way to achieve the highest irrigation efficiency possible and eliminate late season shortages. Several alternatives for delivering the water to sprinkling systems "throughout the valley are being considered. In any case, a new canal

above the existing Timpanogos Canal most likely would be built to convey Jordanelle water to Daniels and distribute water to other users along the way. However, the north fields area would continue to rely on flood irrigation.

However, only about one third of the irrigation water is distributed by sprinklers now. Converting to valleywide sprinkling will significantly reduce the amount of runoff, as well as the amount that returns to the water system through the underground aquifer, which can create a serious problem for downstream users. The study team is creating a computer model of all components in the water system, both above and below ground. Then various scenarios can be introduced to see what the effect will be.

For instance, Dave Pitcher, another member of the study team, explained that the results of maintaining certain minimum flows in the Provo River, the effect with and without a valleywide sprinkling system, can be predicted by the computer before any changes are made.

of issues and were on of Water needed additional to go forward. There's not of uncertainty," Hansen

He quoted division officials as saying they are concerned about existing water rights on the Lower Provo River and how they have to be protected. "They told us very early that it is their responsibility to protect those rights," said Hansen.

He pointed out that changes made in Upper Provo River water have to take into consideration the effect on downstream water rights. He said the hope is that by bringing water in Jordanelle and Deer Creek Reservoirs, any changes that may effect downstream water rights will be compensated for.

The readjudication is coming, though. That will be the major issue we will have to deal with," Hansen warned.

The stated purpose for readjudicating water rights is to be sure all available water is used as efficiently as possible and that all legitimate user needs are met.

Hansen explained that all the

sources more efficiently," Hansen cautioned the representatives of the water companies. But he said that is the purpose of the proposed valley-wide sprinkling system. "It will resolve, in our view, the problems the [readjudication] process is going to create," he said.

He pointed out that irrigation companies hold the water rights and the individual users are only shareholders in the companies. Therefore, the readjudication will be based on the total use of each company, not on an acre by acre basis.

Wilson explained, "If the irrigation company is responsible, the irrigation company takes the 'hit', and then it goes down to the shareholders. If you've got problems within the irrigation company, like people owning shares and not owning land, it's not those people that take the 'hit'. It's the entire irrigation company. The irrigation company has the responsibility to keep their house in order."

Commission Chairman Moroni Besendorfer, president of the Charleston Irrigation Company, added that the companies cannot allow cases in which a person owns ten acres and buys ten water shares more than he needs.

...will be delivered to homes, businesses, and public locations beginning Oct. 15.

The Heber City directory is printed on recycled paper this year for the first time.

Twenty-five nearby communities are also scheduled to receive the book, including Park City, Pine

beneficially. According to State Law, any land that hasn't been watered beneficially for five years loses its water rights. But Wilson said irrigation companies can file applications to protect water rights on acreage that isn't being irrigated.

One of the water users said Wasatch companies should be able to participate in defining beneficial water use. "Everybody has a different interpretation of what beneficial use is."

Wilson agreed, citing the North Fields as an example that must be taken into account. Acreage in the North Fields is irrigated by a high water table but the landowners don't necessarily hold water shares. "We need to maintain all those uses in the valley," he said.

Morgan was quoted as saying people in those types of situations can apply for rights to subsurface water that historically has been used beneficially.

Wilson also said Morgan doesn't want his agency to have to document all the acreage and water shares, and would prefer to have the irrigation companies take that responsibility.

"Morgan has given you the option to go ahead and document your Guide, featuring Utah voter information, emergency preparedness information, maps and zip codes highlights this year's edition.

Delivery should take about one week to complete. Anyone who does not receive a book, or those who need additional copies should call US West Direct at 1-800-422-8793.

Card of Thanks

We would like to express our deepest love and thanks to the many relatives, neighbors, and friends for the kindnesses and support given to us during the illness and passing of our beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle, and friend.

Also, we wish to thank those who performed so beautifully at Bill's funeral and for the many lovely cards, floral offerings, food, and acts of kindness.

We appreciate the love and caring shown to us by Bishop Roy Remund and the Midway First Ward Relief Society. Our special gratitude to Olpin Mortuary who gave

comfort, love, and special service. These kindnesses will be remembered always.

The family of William Milliner
Maxine Milliner and Family
Bill and Rosalie Milliner and Family
Bob and Caroline Milliner and Family
Bonnie and Max Jacobson and Family
Wanda and Verness Frazier and Family
Shirley and Harry Hardman and Family
Shirm and Mary Milliner and Family
Shanna and Doyle Van Wagoner and Family